

The Diamonstein-Spielvogel Lecture Series provides a forum for distinguished artists to discuss the genesis and evolution of their work in their own words. Dr. Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel and Ambassador Carl Spielvogel generously endowed this series in 1997 to make such conversations available to the public. Recordings from this program are available at go.usa.gov/D5T5.

National Gallery of Art

Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW Washington, DC
Mailing address 2000B South Club Drive Landover, MD 20785

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Washington, DC
Permit No. 9712

DIAMONSTEIN-SPIELVOGEL LECTURE SERIES

JULIE MEHRETU
National Gallery of Art



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DIAMONSTEIN-SPIELVOGEL LECTURE SERIES

Julie Mehretu, artist, in conversation with Judith Brodie, curator and head of modern prints and drawings, National Gallery of Art

November 17, 2013

noon

East Building Auditorium
National Gallery of Art

Julie Mehretu is best known for large-scale, densely packed paintings that combine meticulous rendering and seemingly spontaneous abstract gesture. Her work, including drawings and prints, is built up from multiple layers of archival, geographical, meteorological, and architectural imagery — designs, plans, diagrams, blueprints, ruins, charts, graphs — traced and punctuated with calligraphic marks and obscuring erasures. She maps the histories of civilizations past and present, engaging with issues of social organization, globalization, and geopolitical connectivity.

Born in 1970 in Ethiopia, Mehretu earned her B.A. from Kalamazoo College in 1992 and her M.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1997. She has received numerous awards, including the Penny McCall Award (2002), the MacArthur Fellowship (2005), The Whitney Museum's American Art Award (2005), and the Berlin Prize (2007). Notable among her solo exhibitions is *Julie Mehretu: Grey Area* (Guggenheim, Berlin and New York, 2009 – 2010). She has also participated in numerous international exhibitions and biennials, including the Istanbul Biennial (2003), Carnegie International (2004), Bienal de São Paulo (2004), Whitney Biennial (2004), Sydney Biennale (2006), and Documenta 13 (2012).



Photograph by Mark Hanauer



Mehretu has worked at professional printmaking studios across the United States, including Gemini G.E.L in Los Angeles, Highpoint Editions in Minneapolis, Crown Point Press in San Francisco, and Derriere L'Etoile Studios and Burnet Editions in New York City. Two of her prints, *Circulation* in the Gallery's collection and *Circulation (working proof 9)*, are on view in the exhibition *Yes, No, Maybe: Artists Working at Crown Point Press* through January 5, 2014.

This lecture is free and open to the public. Seating is available on a first-come, first-seated basis. The East Building of the National Gallery of Art is located at Fourth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

Julie Mehretu, *Circulation*, 2005, color etching, aquatint, and engraving with chine collé, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of Kathan Brown, 2011, © Julie Mehretu